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COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Whashington, DC 20515-3303 October 12, 2018

President Donald J. Trump The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On October 2nd, Jamal Khashoggi – U.S.-based journalist and democracy advocate – entered the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. He has not been seen since. It is not surprising that intelligence agencies around the world strongly believe the Saudi Arabian government is complicit in Mr. Khashoggi's disappearance and suspected murder. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a long history of disregarding America's values and acting against the best interests of our country. We were reminded of that in 2016 when the House Intelligence Committee released the 28 pages of the Congressional Joint Inquiry into the 9/11 attacks upon the United States, which were classified by the Bush Administration. As you recall, the 28 pages implicated the Saudi royal family in financially supporting the 9/11 hijackers. For instance, Prince Bandar, the longtime Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States, and his wife, personally funded Osama Bassnan, who then paid and assisted multiple 9/11 hijackers. In addition to the 28 pages, the FBI continues to hold countless files detailing Saudi backing of the hijackers, which need to be declassified. To this day, 9/11 families remain in litigation against the Saudis over their involvement in the attacks on September 11th.

Despite this, the United States continues to treat Saudi Arabia as if it were one of our greatest allies. That is as stupid as it is sickening. Nearly 3,000 Americans were killed in the attacks and many are still suffering and dying from mental and physical wounds. For too long the American government has forced taxpayers to subsidize protection of the Saudi regime and enlisted U.S. service members to do so. Among many other examples, we are supporting the Saudi Arabian military's involvement in the Yemeni Civil War, which has led to one of the world's foremost humanitarian crises, and countless civilian deaths. This must stop. With the federal deficit running nearly \$1 trillion a year, and federal debt at over \$21 trillion, we simply can't afford it.

Mr. President, the greatness of America stems from the goodness of our people and the values we uphold. Kidnapping and murdering journalists and political opponents runs counter to everything we hold dear. We must not tolerate such behavior, especially by so-called 'friends'. I join many other elected officials in urging you to demand answers from the Saudi Arabian government regarding the disappearance of Jamal Khashoggi, to end American support of Saudi Arabian involvement in the Yemeni Civil War, and to reevaluate our unholy alliance with the kingdom immediately.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones Member of Congress